

Appl. No. 10/710,970
Amdt. dated February 15, 2007
Reply to Office action of December 04, 2006

REMARKS

1. Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 is amended to include limitations recited in claim 2, and claim 2 is cancelled accordingly. Claim 9 is amended to include limitations recited in claims 10 and 11, and 5 claims 10 and 11 are cancelled and claim 20 is amended accordingly. Claim 23 is newly entered to include limitations recited in claims 1 and 8. Claim 24 is newly entered to include limitations recited in claims 9 and 21. Because of the deletion of claims 2, 10, and 11, the dependency of claims 3-5 and 12-14 is amended. Additionally, some typographical errors are corrected. No new matter is introduced.

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2. Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 20, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sanchez (US 2006/0165139).

15 Response:

Claim 1

As stated in the section **Allowable Subject Matter**, claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent 20 form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 1 has been amended to include limitations recited in claim 2, applicant believes that claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance now.

Claims 6 and 7

25 Claims 6 and 7 are dependent upon claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is found allowable.

Claim 9

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As stated in the section **Allowable Subject Matter**, claim 11 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 9 has been amended to include limitations recited in claims 10 and 11, applicant believes that 5 claim 9 has been placed in condition for allowance now.

Claim 10

Claim 10 has been cancelled.

10 Claims 20 and 22

Claims 20 and 22 are dependent upon claim 9, and should be allowed if claim 9 is found allowable.

3. Patentability of New Claims 23 and 24

15 Claim 23 is newly added to include limitations recited in claims 1 and 8, and claim 24 is newly added to include limitations recited in claims 9 and 21. As stated in the section **Allowable Subject Matter**, claims 8 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, applicant believes 20 that claims 23 and 24 have been placed in condition for allowance.

4. Other Matters

Claims 3-5 are dependent upon claim 1 including limitations recited in claim 2, and claims 12-19 are dependent upon claim 9 including limitations recited in claims 10 and 11.

25 Applicant therefore believes that claims 3-5 and 12-19 have been placed in condition for allowance in light of the section **Allowable Subject Matter**.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,

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